

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

The specification as amended below with replacement paragraphs shows added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 67, line 15 as follows:

--As an amino acid used in the present invention, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> amino acid is preferred. Specific examples of such amino acids include glycine, (+)-alanine, β-alanine, (-)-asparagine, (+)-aspartic acid, (-)-cysteine, (+)-glutamic acid, (+)-glutamine, (-)-hydroxylysine, (-)-leucine, (+)-isoleucine, (+)-lysine, (-)-methionine, (-)-serine, (-)-threonine, (+)-valine, aminolactic aminobutyric acid, azaserine, arginine and methionine.—

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 68, line 7 as follows:

--As a lactam used in the present invention, a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> lactam is preferred. Specific examples of such lactams include glycine anhydride, β-propiolactam, α-pyrrolidone, α-piperidone, ε-caprolactam, α-methyl-caprolactam, ~~α-methyl-caprolactam~~ β-methyl-caprolactam, γ-methyl-caprolactam, δ-methyl-caprolactam, ε-methyl-caprolactam, N-methyl-caprolactam, β,γ-dimethyl-caprolactam, γ-ethyl-caprolactam, γ-isopropyl-caprolactam, ε-isopropyl-caprolactam, γ-butyl-caprolactam, γ-hexacyclobenzyl-caprolactam, ω-enantholactam, ω-capryllactam, caprylolactam, lauro lactam and a dimer of caprolactone.—

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 123, line 3 as follows:

--20 mg of a glycolic acid copolymer which has been dried at 80 °C under a pressure of  $1 \times 10^2$  Pa for 6 hours is weighed and, then, dissolved in 3 g of the above-mentioned eluent, followed by filtration using a filter having a mesh size of  $\geq 0.2$   $\mu\text{m}$ , thereby obtaining a sample solution.--

Please amend Table 1 at page 258 as follows:

				Example 1	Example 2	Example 3	Example 4	Example 5
Results of the analysis of the obtained copolymer	Weight average molecular weight (Mw)			123,000	186,000	182,000	167,000	179,000
	Content of glycolic acid monomer units (% by mole)			83.97	88.97	93.97	88.97	88.97
	Non-glycolic, hydroxycarboxylic acid monomer units	Type	Lactic acid		Lactic acid	Lactic acid	6-hydroxyhexanoic acid	3-hydroxybutyric acid
		Content (% by mole)	16.00		11.00	6.00	11.00	11.00
		Average chain length	1.08		1.02	1.02	1.03	1.02
	Content of diglycolic acid monomer units (% by weight mole)			0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
	Polyol monomer units	Type	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Content (% by mole)	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Polycarboxylic acid monomer units	Type	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Content (% by mole)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Results of evaluation	Total content of polycarboxylic acid monomer units including polyol monomer units and diglycolic acid monomer units (% by mole)			0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
	Degree of discoloration of copolymer			28	29	29	29	28
	Degree of discoloration after the melt heat stability test			36	38	43	38	39
	Oxygen gas permeability of the melt-shaped sheet (cc/m <sup>2</sup> -day-atm)			9.1	8.0	7.2	8.1	8.0
	Strength of the melt-shaped sheet			4	5 or more	5 or more	5 or more	5 or more
	Biodegradability of the melt-shaped sheet in soil			Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable
	Note: "-" means "not detected".							

Please amend Table 2 at page 259 as follows:

		Comparative Example 1	Comparative Example 2	Comparative Example 3	Comparative Example 4
Results of the analysis of the obtained copolymer	Weight average molecular weight (Mw)	109,000	164,000	122,000	187,000
	Content of glycolic acid monomer unit (% by weight mole)	88.86	96.97	72.96	88.97
	Non-glycolic, hydroxycarboxylic acid monomer units	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid
	Type				
	Content (% by mole)				
	Average chain length	1.02	1.01	1.14	1.62
	Content of diglycolic acid monomer unit (% by mole)	0.13	0.03	0.03	0.03
	Polyol monomer units	-	-	-	-
	Type				
	Content (% by mole)				
Results of evaluation	Polycarboxylic acid monomer units	-	-	-	-
	Type				
	Content (% by mole)	-	-	-	-
	Total content of polycarboxylic acid monomer units including polyol monomer units and diglycolic acid monomer units (% by mole)				
	Degree of discoloration of copolymer	34	33	33	29
	Degree of discoloration after the melt heat stability test	175	115	39	105
	Oxygen gas permeability of a melt-shaped sheet (cc/m <sup>2</sup> ·day·atm)	8.2	7.0	35.0	8.4
	Strength of the melt-shaped sheet	4	5 or more	4	5 or more
	Biodegradability of the melt-shaped sheet in soil	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable

Note: "-" means "not detected".

Please amend Table 3 at page 260 as follows:

	Example 6		Example 7		Example 8		Example 9		Example 10	
	Weight average molecular weight (Mw)		187,000		187,000		325,000		330,000	
Results of the analysis of the obtained copolymer	Content of glycolic acid monomer units (% by mole)		88.94		88.94		88.98		88.94	
	Non-glycolic, hydroxycarboxylic acid monomer units	Type	Lactic acid		Lactic acid		Lactic acid		Lactic acid	
		Content (% by mole)	10.99		10.98		10.98		10.98	
		Average chain length	1.01		1.01		1.01		1.01	
	Content of diglycolic acid monomer unit (% by mole)		0.03		0.03		0.03		0.04	
	Polyol monomer units	Type	Neopentyl glycol		1,6-hexanediol		Trimethylolpropane		Trimethylolpropane	
		Content (% by mole)	0.04		0.04		0.01		0.01	
	Polycarboxylic acid monomer units	Type	-		-		-		-	
		Content (% by mole)	-		-		-		-	
	Total content of polycarboxylic acid monomer units including polyol monomer units and diglycolic acid monomer units (% by mole)		0.07		0.07		0.04		0.08	
Results of evaluation	Degree of discoloration of copolymer		29		33		34		33	
	Degree of discoloration after the melt heat stability test		39		43		44		44	
	Oxygen gas permeability of a melt-shaped sheet (cc/m <sup>2</sup> -day-atm)		8.3		8.2		8.3		8.6	
	Strength of the melt-shaped sheet		5 or more		5 or more		5 or more		5 or more	
	Biodegradability of the melt-shaped sheet in soil		Biodegradable		Biodegradable		Biodegradable		Biodegradable	
									5 or more	

Note: "-" means "not detected".

Please amend Table 4 at page 261 as follows:

			Example 11	Example 12	Example 13	Example 14		Example 15	Comparative Example 5
						Neopentyl glycol	Trimethylolpropane		
Results of the analysis of the obtained copolymer	Weight average molecular weight (Mw)		186,000	185,000	189,000	280,000		189,000	165,000
	Content of glycolic acid monomer unit (% by mole)		88.96	88.96	88.63	88.62		88.25	93.95
	Non-glycolic, hydroxycarboxylic acid monomer units	Type	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid		Lactic acid	Lactic acid
		Content (% by mole)	10.96	10.96	9.57	9.56		7.93	4.21
		Average chain length	1.01	1.01	1.05	1.01		1.05	1.02
	Content of diglycolic acid monomer unit (% by mole)		0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03		0.03	0.03
	Polyol monomer units	Type	Neopentyl glycol	Neopentyl glycol	Neopentyl glycol	Neopentyl glycol	Trimethylolpropane	Neopentyl glycol	Neopentyl glycol
		Content (% by mole)	0.04	0.04	0.90	0.90	0.01	1.91	0.92
	Polycarboxylic acid monomer units	Type	-	Oxalic acid	Adipic acid	Adipic acid		Adipic acid	Adipic acid
		Content (% by mole)	-	0.01	0.87	0.88		1.88	0.89
Results of evaluation	Total content of Polycarboxylic acid monomer units including polyol monomer units and diglycolic acid monomer units (% by mole)		0.08	0.08	1.80	1.82		3.82	1.84
	Degree of discoloration of copolymer		29	28	30	33		30	34
	Degree of discoloration after the melt heat stability test		40	39	39	42		38	110
	Oxygen gas permeability of a melt-shaped sheet (cc/m <sup>2</sup> ·day·atm)		8.5	8.5	8.8	9.2		12.0	8.3
	Strength of the melt-shaped sheet		5 or more	5 or more	5 or more	5 or more		5 or more	5 or more
	Biodegradability of the melt-shaped sheet in soil		Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable		Biodegradable	Biodegradable

Note: "-" means "not detected".



Please amend Table 5 at page 262 as follows:

		Example 16	Example 17	Example 18	Example 19	Example 20
Results of the analysis of the obtained copolymer	Weight average molecular weight (Mw)	178,000	148,000	132,000	152,000	93,000
	Content of glycolic acid monomer unit (% by mole)	88.98	88.93	88.91	88.92	88.98
	Non-glycolic, hydroxycarboxylic acid monomer units	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid
		11.00	11.01	11.01	11.01	11.00
	Content (% by mole)	1.02	1.05	1.02	1.02	1.02
	Average chain length	0.02	0.06	0.08	0.07	0.02
	Content of diglycolic acid monomer unit (% by mole)					
		-	-	-	-	-
	Polyol monomer units	-	-	-	-	-
	Polycarboxylic acid monomer units	-	-	-	-	-
Results of evaluation	Total content of polycarboxylic acid monomer units including polyol monomer units and diglycolic acid monomer units (% by mole)	0.02	0.06	0.08	0.07	0.02
	Degree of discoloration of copolymer	28	28	28	28	27
	Degree of discoloration after the <del>melt</del> <u>melt</u> heat stability test	39	44	48	46	38
	Oxygen gas permeability of a melt-shaped sheet (cc/m <sup>2</sup> ·day·atm)	8.1	8.1	8.0	8.0	8.1
	Strength of the melt-shaped sheet	5 or more	5 or more	5 or more	5 or more	4
	Biodegradability of the melt-shaped sheet in soil	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable

Note: "-" means "not detected".

Please amend Table 6 at page 263 as follows:

Results of the analysis of the obtained copolymer	Weight average molecular weight (Mw)				Comparative Example 6	Comparative Example 7	Comparative Example 8	Comparative Example 9	Comparative Example 10	Comparative Example 11	
	Content of glycolic acid monomer unit (% by mole)				186,000	179,000	184,000	109,000	175,000	183,000	
	Non-glycolic, hydroxycarboxylic acid monomer units	Type	Lactic acid				Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	
		Content (% by mole)	11.00				11.00	11.00	11.02	6.00	
		Average chain length	1.02				1.02	1.02	1.02	2.08	
	Content of diglycolic acid monomer unit (% by mole)				0.20	0.21	0.18	0.14	—	—	
	Polyol monomer units	Type	Neopentyl glycol				Neopentyl glycol	—	—	—	
		Content (% by mole)	0.21				0.21	0.20	—	—	—
	Polycarboxylic acid monomer units	Type	—				—	—	—	—	—
		Content (% by mole)	—				—	—	—	—	—
Results of evaluation	Total content of polycarboxylic acid monomer units including polyol monomer units and diglycolic acid monomer units (% by mole)				0.41	0.42	0.38	0.14	—	—	
	Degree of discoloration of copolymer				40	39	37	38	30	29	
	Degree of discoloration after the melt heat stability test				224	242	196	158	92	58	
	Oxygen gas permeability of a melt-shaped sheet (cc/m <sup>2</sup> ·day·atm)				8.7	8.8	8.8	8.3	8.8	28.0	
	Strength of the melt-shaped sheet				5 or more	5 or more	5 or more	4	5 or more	5 or more	
Biodegradability of the melt-shaped sheet in soil				Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable		

Note: "-" means "not detected".